(b) Tender action has been initiated to reconstruct Terminal 1-A which is expected to be completed by December, 1997. This terminal will cater to domestic traffic exclusively. Existing international terminal is adequate to cater to international traffic.

The contract between Air India and Caribjet

299. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the contract which was singed in December, 1994 between Air India and Caribjet;

(b) what are the names of bidders along with the rates quoted by each at that time; and

(c) whether prior approval of the Board was obtained before signing the agreement and, if not, what are reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) M/s Caribjet was awarded the contract in November, 1994 for wet leasing of two A310-300 aircraft by Air India initially for a period of six months at a cost of USD 3285 per block hour.

(b) Besides M/s Caribjet, the only other positive response was received from M/s Air Club of Canada. The rates quoted are given in the statement (*see* below).

(c) The contract was awarded to M/s Caribjet on 16.11.94 and ratified by the Board on 24.11.94.

Statement

Lease rates in Us Dollor

		M/s Caribject	M/s Air Club
1.	Guaranteed Utilisation	175 hours per aircraft per fortnight	350 hours per aircraft per month
2.	Basic Charge	467,500 per aircraft per month	—
3.	Aircraft, crew maintenance and insurance	3285 per block hour	4650 per block hour upto 350 hours and there after 3650 per block hour.

NOTE : M/s Air Club had one aircraft on offer for 6 months and other aircraft for 12 months as against Air India's initial requirement of 2 aircraft for 6 months.

Russian built M1-17 helicopters

300. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russian built M1-17 helicopters are in use in India for transport of goods or passengers;

(b) if so, what is the number thereof;

(c) whether Government have seen reports that Nepal has grounded these helicopters for safety reasons; and

(d) what safety precautions Indian Government have taken vis-a-vis these helicopters?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) (a) and (b) M1-17 helicopters are not operating in Civil Sector in India.

(c) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has not received any information on grounding of M1-17 helicopter by the Government of Nepal.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b).

Guidelines for Approval of non-Banking Financial Companies

301. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for setting up of Nidhi companies (non-banking financial companies) that have been approved by Government so far;

(b) the number of such proposals which are still pending with Government, state-wise;

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved;

(d) whether Government have detected any case of frauds by these companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(f) steps being taken to modify the guidelines for approval of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Since 1963, 19

npanies have so far been declared as Nidhi mpanies under Section 620A of the mpanies Act, 1956.

(b) As on 31.1.1997, one hundred and eight lications were pending. The State-wise ition of these applications is as follows:—

). Name of the State	Number of applications pending
Tamilnadu	87
Uttar Pradesh	9
Andhra Pradesh	3
Kerala	2
Karnataka	2
West Bengal	1
National Capital Territory of Delhi	2
Pondicherry (Union Territory)	2
TOTAL	108

:) Pending review of the working of Nidhi panies, a decision on the pending cations has been kept in abeyance.

l) and (e) According to available mation the Chennai City Police have ered cases under provisions of the Indian l Code and Prize Chit and Money ılation Scheme (Banning) Act, 1978 ıt a number of persons concerned with the gement of a number of companies/firms, ling GNS Nidhi Ltd. and three companies l as benefit fund companies (which are :lared as Nidhi under Section 620A of ımpanies Act).

cent inspection of eleven Nidhi anies under section 209A of the anies Act, 1956 has revealed certain ıventions of the provisions of the anies Act and directions issued under n 637A of the Companies Act, 1956 vide Department of Company Affairs cation No. GSR 773(E) dated 4th ber, 1995. Suitable action as warranted law is being taken against these ıies.

\ view in the matter will be taken after ew of the working of Nidhi companies n completed.

News-Item "Kishore Instigated CLB Complaints"

302. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Economic Times (Mumbai) on 6.12.96 under the heading "Kishore instigated CLB complaint" stating that the Shaw Wallace Employees Federation had filed a petition before Company Law Board at the behest of Shri Kishore Chhabria and he has donated Rs. 10.96 lakh to the Federation; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to find out the source of the said money donated to the Federation and other aspects revealed in the above mentioned news-item?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A petition u/s 235, 237, 397, 398, 399, 402, 403, 406 and 408 of the Companies Act has been filed before the Company Law Board by All India Shaw Wallace Employees Federation and Others on 16.7.1996 and the said petition is listed for further hearing from 4th to 7th March, 1997 before the Company Law Board. The matter is thus sub-judice.

The allegation that this petition has been filed with the aid and assistance of the K.R. Chhabria Group is also sub-judice before the Company Law Board.

Steps to improve working of National Saving Scheme

303. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to take steps to improve the working of the National Saving Scheme including revision of rate of interest on deposit under the Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action on these requests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?